

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing system and method. The inventive system includes an optical arrangement (e.g., video camera) for providing image data. A memory is provided for storing a first frame of image data consisting of a heterogeneous background scene. Next, the user provides to the optical arrangement a foreground image, with the same background. This image is treated as a second frame of image data. Image processing circuitry extracts the foreground imagery from the second frame and strips the background imagery without using monochromatic screens or filters. In the preferred embodiment, the image processing circuitry compares picture elements of the second frame to corresponding picture elements in said first frame and replaces each pixel element with a predetermined value if the result of the comparison is true and outputting the picture element if the result of the comparison is false. In an alternative embodiment, the first frame is subtracted from the second frame and the resulting from is filtered and differentiated to provide a template. The template is then multiplied against the second frame to extract the desired foreground imagery.